



A Muslim Sermon Guide for Mainstreaming Nigeria's Violence Against Persons Prohibition Law into Faith Teachings

Ipas Partners for
Reproductive Justice
NIGERIA HEALTH
FOUNDATION

Table Of Content

Acknowledgment	03
Introduction:	04
Sermon 1: Rape	05
Sermon 2: Incest	07
Sermon 3: Inflicting Physical Injury	09
Sermon 4: Placing a Person in Fear of Physical Injury	11
Sermon 5: Offensive Conduct	13
Sermon 6: Harmful Traditional Practice	15
Sermon 7: Frustrating Investigation	17
Sermon 8: Wilfully Making False Statement	19
Sermon 9: Forceful Ejection from Home	21
Sermon 10: Deprivation of Liberty:	23
Sermon 11: Damage to Property with intent to cause distress	25
Sermon 12: Forced Financial Dependence or Economic Abuse	27
Sermon 13: Forced and Unjustified Isolation or Separation from Family and Friends	30
Sermon 14: Emotional, Verbal and Psychological Abuse	31
Sermon 15: Abandonment of Family without Sustenance	33
Sermon 16: Stalking	36
Sermon 17: Intimidation of a person	37
Sermon 18: Spousal Battery	39
Sermon 19: Substance Attack	41
Sermon 20: Administering a Substance with Intent	43
Sermon 21: Indecent Exposure	45
Sermon 22: Political Violence	47
General Note on Delivering Sermon on the Using the Guider	49
Appreciation	51

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Worthy of note is the Community-Based Organization in Gombe State (SAIF Advocacy Foundation) 's contributions to mobilize strategic Religious Leaders in the State to participate in the development and training on the Sermon Guide.

We at Ipas are hopeful that this guide will significantly support ongoing efforts towards changing negative social norms that drive Gender-Based Violence in Nigeria and effectively respond to the needs (Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights & Psycho-social and Legal support) of survivors of Gender-Based Violence.

Finally, I appreciate my team's tireless efforts in developing the Sermon Guide.

Lucky Enahoro Palmer
Country Director
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Background

In Nigeria, a nation renowned for its rich cultural and religious diversity, fostering unity and understanding among its Muslim communities is not only essential but a sacred duty. In this spirit of unity and shared responsibility, we present to you a sermon guide deeply rooted in the teachings of Christianity and Islam, carefully woven into the fabric of Nigeria's Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Act.

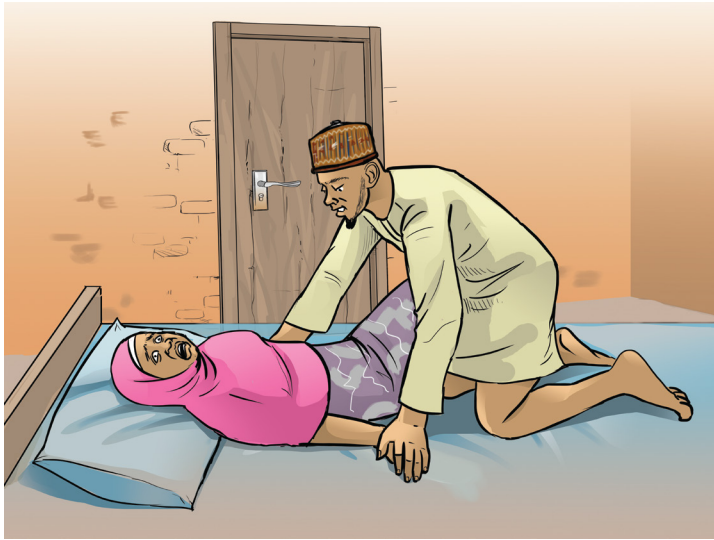
The VAPP Act, enacted in 2015, represents a significant step towards ensuring the safety, dignity, and rights of every individual, regardless of their gender, faith, or social status. It seeks to curb various forms of violence, including domestic violence, sexual harassment, and harmful traditional practices, which have regrettably persisted in our society. Our mission is to empower Christian and Muslim faith leaders with the wisdom and guidance needed to address these pressing issues within the framework of their respective religious traditions and our nation's laws.

In this sermon guide, you will find a harmonious blend of Islamic teachings,, as we delve into the core values and principles that underpin our faiths. Together, we will explore the profound teachings of love, compassion, and justice that form the bedrock of our religious traditions. By drawing upon these shared values, we hope to bridge the gaps that divide us and unite in our collective commitment to eradicating violence, promoting gender equality, and fostering peaceful coexistence.

Through scriptural references, reflections, and practical guidance, this guide aims to inspire faith leaders to become beacons of hope and catalysts for positive change within their congregations and communities. It is our sincere belief that when Christians come together to address the issues addressed by the VAPP Act, we not only fulfill our religious duties but also contribute to the greater good of our beloved Nigeria.

May this guide serve as a testament to our shared commitment to peace, justice, and love, and may it guide us as we work hand in hand to create a more harmonious and compassionate society for all.

Sermon 1: Rape



Sexual intercourse by a man to his wife is not rape (if the wife is mature). A man convicted of rape will be sent to prison for life and he will be castrated by removing his testicles. A woman convicted of rape will be sent to prison for life and her fallopian tube will be removed. Where the offender is less than 14 years old he or she will be locked in a place approved by law for a minimum of 14 years.

Summary of the Law

The offence of rape is committed where a person intentionally penetrates the vagina, anus or mouth of another with any part of his or her body or with anything else and the penetration was made:

- Against the will of the victim
- Without consent of the victim
- The consent was obtained by force, or threat, because of fear of death or fear of injury;
- By means of false and fraudulent representation of the act to be committed;
- By use of intoxicating substance that will take away the sense of the victim;
- By impersonation and claiming to be the husband or wife of the victim;
- With or without consent where the victim is under 16 years or mentally sick

Where a group of people committed rape each of the offenders will be sent to prison for life and removal of his testicles if male or her fallopian tube if female. A register of convicted sexual offenders must be kept by the VAPP Management Committee and be made accessible to the public. The picture, name and other personal details of the offender will be displayed in a public place in the headquarters of the local government he is living and will also be displayed in other places

Introduction

Begin with praise for Allah and blessings upon the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). Highlight the significance of addressing important and sensitive issues from an Islamic perspective. Introduce the topic of rape as a grave violation of Islamic principles and human dignity. State that Quranic verses emphasize the themes of human dignity, consent, modesty, accountability, and the prohibition of harm.

It is important to be mindful of the fact that survivors of rape are in the congregation and try to deliver this sermon with compassion and empathy, considering the sensitivities of survivors and the need to create a supportive atmosphere within the community

1.1 Human Dignity and Sanctity

Remind the congregants that Islam values the dignity of every individual as a creation of Allah. Make reference to the Quranic verse (Quran, 17:70) that emphasize the honor and value bestowed

upon humans by Allah.

"And We have certainly honored the children of Adam and carried them on the land and sea and provided for them of the good things and preferred them over much of what We have created, with [definite] preference."

1.2 The Commandment of Consent

Cite the Quranic verse (Quran, Surah Al-Isra, 17:32): "And do not approach unlawful sexual intercourse. Indeed, it is ever an immorality and is evil as a way."

Explain that the Quran strictly prohibits any form of sexual misconduct, emphasizing the importance of obtaining clear and enthusiastic consent and within the recognised marital relationship in Islam.

Emphasize that both men and women are instructed to practice modesty and lower their gazes, contributing to a respectful environment.

1.3 Accountability and Justice

Discuss the Islamic principle of accountability and how it applies to standing in solidarity with survivors of rape in the pursuit of justice.

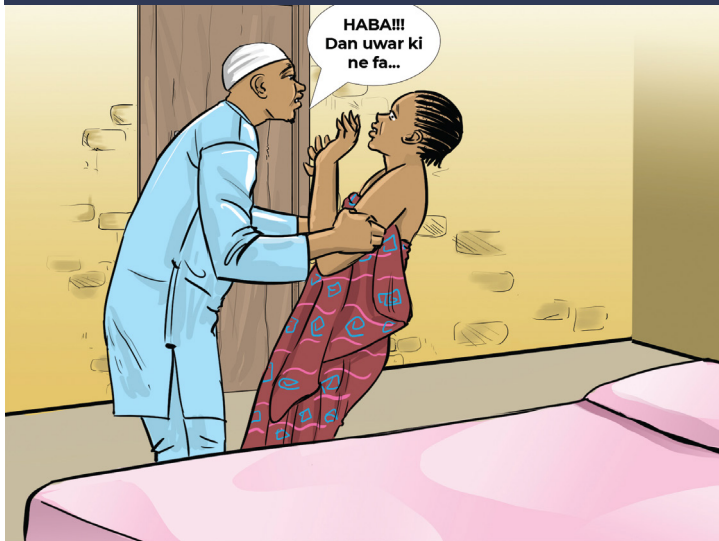
Cite the Quranic verse: "O you who have believed, be persistently standing firm for Allah, witnesses in justice, and do not let the hatred of a people prevent you from being just. Be just; that is nearer to righteousness. And fear Allah; indeed, Allah is Acquainted with what you do." (Quran, Surah Al-Ma'idah, 5:8)

Ending with a Summary

Reemphasize that Islam out-rightly condemns rape and any form of sexual violence and that it protects human dignity and honor. Call on the congregation to cultivate a safe environment that upholds the values of consent, modesty, accountability, and justice.

Conclude with a prayer for the elimination of all forms of harm and injustice from our communities and the world, and for the guidance to live in accordance with the teachings of Islam

Sermon 2: Incest



Summary of the Law

A person that intentionally had sexual intercourse with a relative within the prohibited degrees of relationship (e.g father, mother, daughter, son, mother-in-law, father-in-law, step daughter, step-son, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, etc.) with or without consent, will be sent to prison for a minimum period of 10 years without the option of fine.

Where two relatives mutually consent to have sexual intercourse (provided the consent was not obtained by fraud or threat) each will be sent to prison for 5 years without the option of a fine

Introduction

Begin with a greeting of peace and blessings upon the congregation. Highlight the importance of strong family relationships in Islam. Emphasize the significance of upholding moral values and principles to maintain the sanctity of the family unit.

Sub-themes

2.1 Defining Incest

Explain incest as sexual relations between close-blood relatives, which is generally considered as immoral, unacceptable, and taboo in many societies and is often prohibited by religious texts, including the Quran. Explain that in the Quran, there are verses that indirectly address the issue of incest by defining the permissible relationships for marriage and outlining the concept of "mahram.

2.2 Islamic Position on Incest

Explain that the Quran provides a comprehensive list of the close-blood relationships that are forbidden for marriage. They underline the importance of maintaining family boundaries and avoiding incestuous unions.

Make reference to Surah Al-Nisa (4:23-24): "Prohibited to you [for marriage] are your mothers, your daughters, your sisters, your father's sisters, your mother's sisters, your brother's daughters, your sister's daughters, your [milk] mothers who nursed you, your sisters through nursing, your wives' mothers, and your step-daughters under your guardianship [born] of your wives unto whom you have gone in. But if you have not gone in unto them, there is no sin upon you. And [also prohibited are] the wives of your sons who are from your [own] loins, and that you take [in marriage] two sisters simultaneously, except for what has already occurred. Indeed, Allah is ever Forgiving and Merciful."

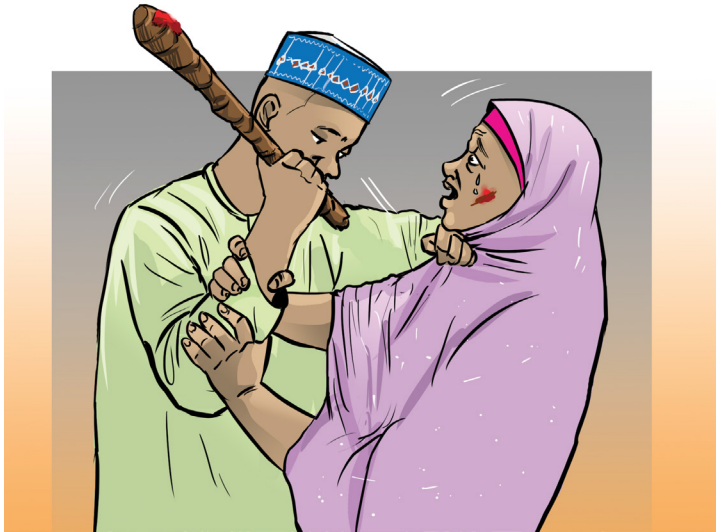
2.3 Avoiding Unlawful Sexual Acts

Emphasize the importance of avoiding even the pathways that lead to sin. Incestuous relationships begin with immoral thoughts and inappropriate interactions, ultimately leading to sin. Make reference to Quran 17:32 "And do not approach unlawful sexual intercourse. Indeed, it is ever an immorality and is evil as a way."

Ending with a Summary

Summarise the key points you made. Remind the faithful that the Quran is their guide in all matters of life, and it unequivocally prohibits incestuous relationships. Remind them that Allah's wisdom in setting these boundaries is to safeguard the purity, dignity, and well-being of our families. Call on them to honor the teachings by maintaining the sanctity of their family relationships, upholding morality, and fostering a strong sense of responsibility toward Muslim families.

Sermon 3: Inflicting Physical Injury



Summary of the Law

A person that intentionally causes or inflicts physical injury on another with a weapon, a substance or any other object will be sent to prison for up to 5 years or pay a fine of up to N500, 000 or both

Introduction

The Sermon Guide: The Path of Compassion - A Sermon Against Inflicting Physical Harm

Begin with the Muslim greeting Assalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuhu. Explain that your sermon will focus on the prohibition of inflicting physical harm on any individual and the importance of upholding this principle in our lives. Explain that the teachings of Islam emphasize the sanctity of human life and the imperative to treat others with kindness and respect

3.1 The Sanctity of Human Life:

Remind the faithful that Allah (SWT) has bestowed upon us the gift of life, and as Muslims, they are reminded in the Quran, "And do not take a life, which Allah has made sacred, except for just cause." (Quran, Surah Al-Isra, 17:33).

Emphasize that every human being is a creation of Allah, deserving of dignity and respect, regardless of their beliefs, race, or background. Inflicting physical harm goes against the very essence of our faith, which is built on love and mercy.

3.2 The Teachings of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him):

Remind the faithful that Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was sent as a mercy to all the world (Quran, Surah Al-Anbiya, 21:107). He taught, through his words and actions, the importance of showing kindness and compassion to others.

He said, "None of you truly believes until he loves for his brother what he loves for himself." (Sahih Bukhari).

Encourage the congregants to strive to embody this principle and to protect the physical well-being of others as we would for ourselves.

Remind the congregants of the words of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) , "The Muslim is the one from whose tongue and hands other Muslims are safe." (Sahih Bukhari) Let us be guardians of this trust, and let our hands be instruments of protection and support, not harm.

3.3 Self-Control and Anger Management

Emphasize the words of the Quran (Quran, Surah Al-Imran, 3:134), which teaches us the value of self-control, especially in moments of anger

"Those who spend [in Allah's cause] in ease and hardship and who restrain their anger and pardon the people - and Allah loves the doers of good."

3.4: The Example of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him)

Share stories from the life of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) that exemplify his commitment to compassion and non-violence. Emphasize the Hadith that teaches us to avoid harming others: "Do not harm people, and do not harm yourself." (Narrated by Ibn Majah)

Ending with a Summary

- Reiterate the teachings of the Quran as explained.
- Remind the congregants that, as Muslims, they are called to be ambassadors of compassion, embodying the teachings of Islam in their daily lives.
- Remind them that Inflicting physical harm on any individual contradicts the essence of Islam, which is rooted in mercy and benevolence.

Sermon 4: Placing a Person in Fear of Physical Injury



Summary of the Law

A person who intentionally places another in fear of physical injury will be sent to prison for up to 2 years or pay a fine of up to N200, 000 or both

The Sermon Guide

Introduction

In the introductory statement, call on the Muslim brothers and sisters to reflect upon placing a person on fear of physical injury as a crucial matter that affects the lives of persons in our communities. Express empathy and concern for the emotional torture induced by threat issued on them, and emphasize the Islamic values of compassion, mercy, and support. Highlight the role of Imams in providing spiritual guidance, fostering understanding, and promoting holistic well-being within the Muslim community

Sub-themes

4.1 Quranic Guidance:

- Cite Surah Al-Hujurat (49:11): "O you who have believed, let not a people ridicule [another] people; perhaps they may be better than them."

Remind the faithful that this verse teaches us not to mock or threaten others, as we may not fully comprehend their worth or potential. Refer to QURAN, 14:42 "And think not that Allah is unaware of what the oppressors do. He only grants them respite until the day the eyes will stare in horror." Explain to the faithful that every action that is committed in this world is being seen by the Almighty. And it is only a matter of time before Allah (SWT) deals with the oppressors accordingly.

- Quran 2:195: "And spend in the way of Allah and do not throw [yourselves] with your [own] hands into destruction [by refraining]. And do good; indeed, Allah loves the doers of good."

Explain that this verse reminds us not to engage in destructive behavior, which includes threatening others. Instead, we are encouraged to do good and uphold the principles of kindness and compassion.

- Quran 6:151: "And do not approach the orphan's property except in a way that is best until he reaches maturity. And give full measure and weight in justice. We do not charge any soul except [with that within] its capacity. And when you testify, be just, even if [it concerns] a near relative." Explain that this verse highlights the importance of justice and fairness in our dealings with others. Threatening someone is a grave injustice, and Islam commands us to be just, even in our interactions with close relatives.

4.2 Hadith Guidance:

- The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: "Beware! Whoever is cruel and hard on a non-Muslim minority or curtails their rights, or burdens them with more than they can bear, or takes anything from them against their free will; I (Prophet Muhammad) will complain against the person on the Day of Judgment." (Abu Dawud)

This hadith emphasizes the importance of treating all individuals, regardless of their faith, with respect and fairness, and warns against threatening or oppressing others.

- The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: "The strong is not the one who overcomes the people by his strength, but the strong is the one who controls himself while in anger." (Sahih al-Bukhari)

This hadith teaches us the virtue of self-control, especially in situations where anger or threats might arise through peaceful means. By doing so, we can be true ambassadors of Islam and contribute to a more harmonious and just society. May Allah guide us on the path of righteousness and peace. Ameen.

- The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: "Whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day should speak what is good or remain silent." (Sahih al-Bukhari)

Explain that this Hadith emphasizes the importance of guarding our tongues and speaking only what is good. Threatening words can cause harm and discord, and it is better to remain silent than to utter harmful threats.

- The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: "None of you truly believes until he wishes for his brother what he wishes for himself." (Sahih al-Bukhari)

Explain that threatening others goes against the principle of wishing for them what we wish for ourselves. Instead, we should wish for their safety, security, and well-being.

- Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: "The Muslim is the one from whose tongue and hands the people are safe, and the believer is the one from whom the people's lives and wealth are safe." (Sahih al-Bukhari) Explain that a true Muslim is one whose actions and words exalts that teaching of the Islam and true reflection of love and peace which are core values of Islam.

Ending with a Summary

- Recap the key talking points and remind the faithful that they are called upon to bear true witness to Allah
- Call on the faithful to strive to be ambassadors of peace and understanding, following the teachings of the Quran and the example of our Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).
- Remind them that by refraining from threatening others and promoting kindness, they can contribute to a more harmonious and compassionate society

May Allah guide us all on the path of righteousness and grant us the wisdom to interact with others in a manner that reflects the beauty of Islam. Ameen.

Sermon 5: Offensive Conduct



Summary of the Law

A Person that compels another by force or threat to do any activity or conduct that affects the victim's physical or psychological well-being will be sent to prison for up to 3 years or pay a fine of up to N300,000 or both

The Sermon Guide

Introduction

- Begin with the Islamic greeting of peace
- Inform the faithful that the day's sermon is a reminder of the importance of conduct and speech as Muslims.
- Remind the congregants that they are called upon by Allah to be the best of people and to promote goodness and virtue. In doing so, they must avoid offensive and abusive actions that harm others and tarnish the image of Islam

Sub-themes

5.1 The Importance of Good Conduct

- Remind the congregation that Allah, the Most Merciful, emphasizes the importance of good conduct in the Quran. In Surah Al-Qalam (Chapter 68), verses 4-5, Allah says:
"And indeed, you are of a great moral character. So you will see and they will see."
- Cite Surah Al-Hujurat (Chapter 49), verse 11, Allah provides clear guidance on avoiding abusive language:
"O you who have believe, let not a people ridicule [another] people; perhaps they may be better than them."
Emphasize that this verse calls on Muslims never to ridicule or mock others, as they may be better than them in the sight of Allah. Engaging in abusive language is not in line with the teachings of Islam.
- Cite Surah Al-Hujurat (49:12): "And do not insult one another and do not call each other by [offensive] nicknames. Wretched is the name of disobedience after [one's] faith. And whoever does not repent – then it is those who are the wrongdoers."

This verse explicitly forbids insulting and using offensive nicknames for others. It reminds us that such behavior is contrary to the spirit of faith and urges us to repent and seek forgiveness if we engage in it.

5.2 Promoting Peace and Reconciliation

- Cite Surah Al-Fussilat (Chapter 41), verse 34, Allah instructs us to promote peace and reconciliation:

"And not equal are the good deed and the bad. Repel [evil] by that [deed] which is better; and thereupon the one whom between you and him is enmity [will become] as though he was a devoted friend."

This verse encourages us to respond to bad deeds with goodness and kindness, which can lead to reconciliation and the transformation of enemies into friends.

- Cite Quran, Al Furqan 25:63: "And the servants of the Most Merciful are those who walk upon the earth easily, and when the ignorant address them [harshly], they say [words of] peace."

Remind the faithful that as Muslims, they are expected to respond to ignorance and harshness with words of peace, not with offensive or abusive actions.

5.3 Avoiding Offensive Language

Reference the Quranic Verse (17:53): "Tell My servants to say which is best. Indeed, Satan induces discord among them. Indeed, Satan is ever, to mankind, a clear enemy."

Explain that the verse encourages Muslims to choose their words wisely and speak in a manner that promotes goodness and harmony. Remind the faithful that offensive language not only harms relationships but also opens the door for discord, as Satan exploits our words to create division. Therefore, as Muslims, it is our responsibility to use language that fosters understanding and unity.

Ending with a Summary

- Recap the main themes discussed
- Call on the Muslim brothers and sisters, to strive to emulate the teachings of the Quran in their daily lives.
- Encourage them to always foster respect, choose words carefully, and practice patience and forgiveness. Encourage them to contribute to a society built on the principles of Islam. May Allah guide us in our endeavors and help us become beacons of light, spreading love and understanding in our communities.

Sermon 6: Harmful Traditional Practices



Summary of the Law

A person who carries out harmful traditional practices on another (e.g. harmful widowhood practices, female genital mutilation (FGM) or circumcision, forced marriage etc.) will be sent to prison for up to 4 years or pay a fine of up to N400, 000 or both

The Sermon Guide

Introduction

Start with greeting the faithful - Assalamu Alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh (Peace be upon you and may the mercy of Allah be upon you). Highlight the need to break the silence on a critical issue that plagues society—harmful traditional practices. Remind the faithful that as Muslims, it is their responsibility to guide the communities towards a path of justice, compassion, and respect. Invite them to an exploration of these practices and draw upon Quranic verses to guide us towards their rejection.

Sub-themes

6.1 Forced Marriages

- Cite Surah An-Nisa (4:19): "O you who believe, it is not lawful for you to inherit women by compulsion. And do not make difficulties for them in order to take [back] part of what you gave them unless they commit a clear immorality. And live with them in kindness. For if you dislike them - perhaps you dislike a thing and Allah makes therein much good."

This verse explicitly prohibits inheriting women by compulsion, which implies that consent is necessary in marriage.

- Cite Surah Al-Rum (30:21): "And of His signs is that He created for you from yourselves mates that you may find tranquility in them, and He placed between you affection and mercy. Indeed in that are signs for a people who give thought."

Remind the faithful that this verse emphasizes the idea that marriage should bring tranquility, affection, and mercy, which can only be achieved when both partners enter into the marriage willingly and with mutual consent.

6.2 Discrimination against Women

- Cite Quranic Verse: "O mankind, indeed We have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another. Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you." (Quran Al Hujurat 49:13)

Remind the faithful that discrimination against women is a clear violation of the Quranic message that emphasizes the equality and nobility of all human beings, regardless of gender.

- Cite Surah Al-Baqarah (2:228): "And they (women) have rights similar to those (of men) over them in kindness, and men are a degree above them. Allah is Mighty, Wise."

While this verse mentions a degree of responsibility for men over women, it also emphasizes the need for kindness and fairness in treating women and acknowledges their rights.

- Make reference to Surah An-Nisa (4:32): "And do not wish for that by which Allah has made some of you exceed others. For men is a share of what they have earned, and for women is a share of what they have earned. And ask Allah of his bounty. Indeed Allah is ever, of all things, Knowing."

Explain that this verse underscores that both men and women are entitled to a share of what they earn, emphasizing economic equality.

6.3 Child Marriage

- Cite Surah An-Nisa (4:19): "O you who believe, it is not lawful for you to inherit women by compulsion. And do not make difficulties for them in order to take [back] part of what you gave them unless they commit a clear immorality. And live with them in kindness. For if you dislike them - perhaps you dislike a thing and Allah makes therein much good."

6.4 Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

- Remind the faithful that the Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) is also reported to have said, "The fitrah (natural state) is five things: circumcision, removing the pubic hair, trimming the mustache, cutting the nails, and plucking the armpit hairs." (Sahih al-Bukhari)

This Hadith is often cited to support the practice of male circumcision (which is different from FGM) but does not endorse or mandate any form of female genital mutilation

6.5 Rejecting harmful traditions and practices.

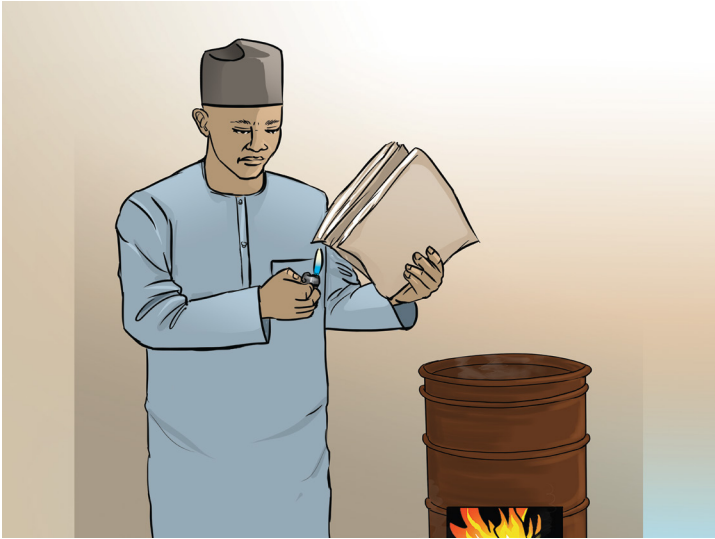
- Cite Quranic Verse: Surah Al-Baqarah (2:170) "When it is said to them, 'Follow what Allah has revealed,' they say, 'Rather, we will follow that which we found our fathers doing!' Even though their fathers understood nothing, nor were they guided?"

Remind the faithful that this verse reminds them that blindly following harmful traditions just because they are passed down through generations is against the spirit of Islam. Our loyalty must be to Allah's guidance, not to customs that may cause harm.

Ending with a Summary

- Recap the key points discussed in the sermon.
- Encourage the congregation to reflect on their role in addressing harmful traditional practices
- End with a closing prayer, asking Allah to guide and empower us as we strive to make the world a better place.

Sermon 7: Frustrating Investigation



Summary of the Law

A person that intends to hide an offence or frustrate the investigation or prosecution of an offender, destroys, alters, mutilates or falsifies any book, document or other item or omits or participate in omitting any important thing from any document, book or other item that will be used as evidence in court, will be sent to prison for up to 3 years or pay a fine of up to N300, 000 or both

The Sermon Guide

Introduction

State that today, you are gathered in the house of Allah to discuss a topic of utmost importance - justice. Emphasize that Justice is one of the fundamental principles upon which Islam is built. Allah, in His infinite wisdom, has provided us with guidance on how to establish and uphold justice in all aspects of our lives. Inform them that in this sermon, you will explore the Quranic verses that emphasize the importance of justice and the consequences of obstructing it

Sub-themes

7.1 Justice in the Quran:

- Remind the people of faith that Allah commands justice in the Quran in Surah Al-Nisa (4:135): "O you who believe, be persistently standing firm in justice, witnesses for Allah, even if it be against yourselves or parents and relatives. Whether one is rich or poor, Allah is more worthy of both. So follow not [personal] inclination, lest you not be just. And if you distort [your testimony] or refuse [to give it], then indeed Allah is ever, with what you do, Acquainted."

Also reference Surah Al-Ma'idah (5:8), Allah further emphasizes the importance of justice:

"O you who believe, be persistently standing firm for Allah, witnesses in justice, and do not let the hatred of a people prevent you from being just. Be just; that is nearer to righteousness. And fear Allah; indeed, Allah is Acquainted with what you do."

7.2 Obstructing Justice

- Cite Surah Al-Baqarah (2:42): "And do not mix the truth with falsehood or conceal the truth while you know [it]."

This verse highlights the importance of not concealing the truth, which can be seen as obstructing justice.

- Remind the faithful that the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: "Whoever among you sees an evil, let him change it with his hand; and if he is unable to do so, then with his tongue; and if he is unable to do so, then with his heart, and that is the weakest form of faith." (Sahih Muslim)

This Hadith encourages Muslims to stand against injustice and wrongdoing, even if it means speaking out against it.

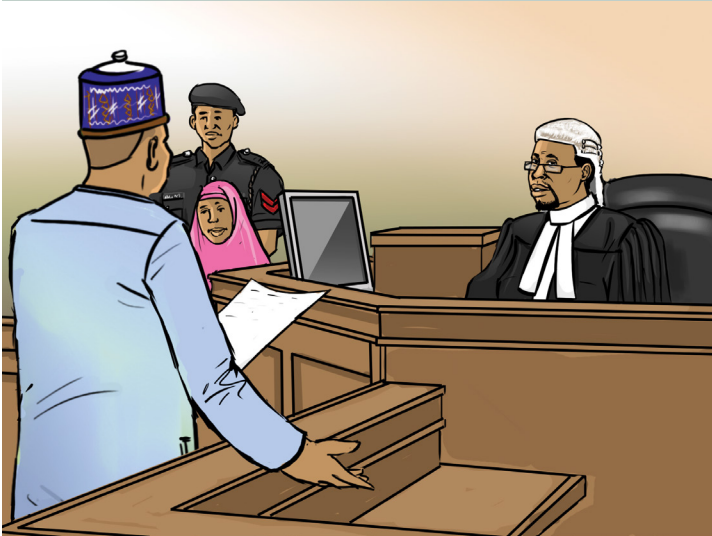
7.3 The Consequences of Obstructing Justice

Cite Surah Al-Zalzalah (99:7-8) illustrates the consequences of injustice: "So whoever does an atom's weight of good will see it, And whoever does an atom's weight of evil will see it."

Ending with a Summary

- Recap the main points discussed
- Emphasize that justice is the cornerstone of a just and peaceful society.

Sermon 8: Willfully Making False Statement



Summary of the Law

A person who intentionally makes false statement orally or in writing as part of any judicial process under this law or makes the false statement purposely to start criminal investigation or proceedings under this law against another person will be sent to prison for up to 1 year or pay a fine of up to N100,000

The Sermon Guide

Introduction

Welcome the faithful to the day's sermon and inform them that there will be a focus on a matter of great importance - the sin of wilfully making false statements, also known as bearing false witness or lying. Remind the faithful that Islam places a strong emphasis on truthfulness, and lying is considered a grave sin

Sub-themes

8.1 The Prohibition of Lying

- Remind the faithful of what Allah, the Most Merciful, says in the Quran: Surah Al-Baqarah (2:42): "And do not mix the truth with falsehood or conceal the truth while you know [it]."

Explain that this verse emphasizes the importance of not mixing truth with falsehood, that we should always speak the truth and avoid deception and falsehood in our speech.

- Remind the believers that Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) also said: "Be truthful, for indeed truthfulness leads to righteousness, and righteousness leads to Paradise. And a man keeps speaking the truth and strives for truthfulness until he is written with Allah as a truthful person. And beware of lying, for indeed lying leads to wickedness, and wickedness leads to the Hellfire. And a man keeps lying and strives for falsehood until he is written with Allah as a liar." (Sahih Muslim)

- Cite Quran, Surah At-Tawbah, 9:119: "O you who believe, fear Allah and be with those who are true."

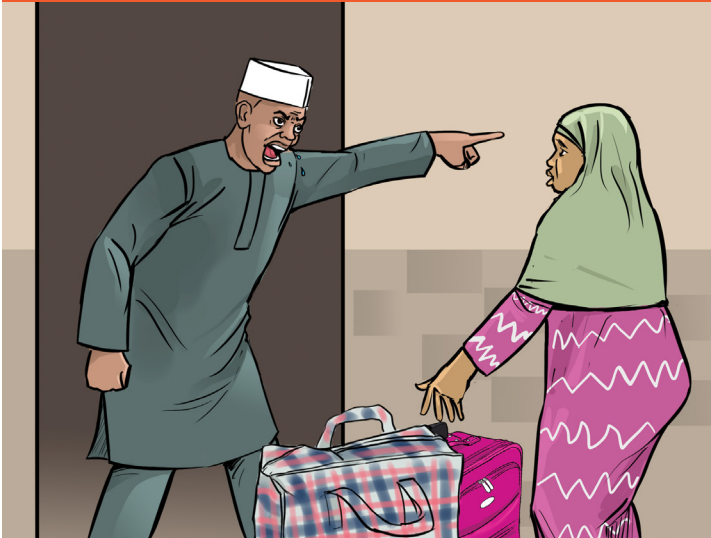
Explain that this verse encourages believers to be truthful and to associate with truthful individuals.

Remind the faithful that our beloved Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was known as "Al-Amin," the trustworthy, even before he received the divine message. His life serves as the best example of truthfulness and honesty. As Muslims, we should follow his noble example in all aspects of our lives, especially in our speech

Ending with a Summary

- Recap the points made in the sermon
- Remind the faithful that it is their duty as Muslims to uphold the highest standards of truthfulness and honesty.
- Emphasize that Allah has warned against the sin of willfully making false statements and has promised rewards for those who are truthful.

Sermon 9: Forceful Ejection from Home



Summary of the Law

A person who by the use of force evicts his wife or her husband from home or refuses his wife or her husband entry into the home without good reason will be sent to prison for up to 2 years or pay a fine of up to N200, 000 or both

The Sermon Guide

Introduction

Explain that the purpose of the sermon is to explore how the teachings of the Quran can guide Muslims in addressing and overcoming injustices of forceful ejection with compassion, and Quranic truth.

Sub-themes

9.1 Sanctity of Home in Islam

- Begin by discussing the significance of the home in Islam as a place of safety, tranquility, and refuge.
- Share the following Quranic verse as a foundation for this discussion: "And We made your houses as a place of rest and an assurance for you" (Quran, Surah An-Nahl, 16:80).
- Emphasize that homes are a gift from Allah, a place where families are nurtured, and where individuals find solace and peace.

9.2 The Injustice of Forceful Ejection

- Share the Quranic verse (Quran, Surah Al Dhalaq 56:6) Let the women live (in 'iddat) in the same style as ye live, according to your means: Annoy them not, so as to restrict them. And if they carry (Life in your wombs), then spend (your substance) on them until they deliver their burden: and if they suckle your (offspring), give them their recompense: and take mutual counsel together, according to what is just and reasonable. And if ye find yourselves in difficulties, let another woman suckle (the child) on the (father's) behalf.
- Cite Surah Al-Baqarah (2:191): "...and do not transgress. Indeed, Allah does not like transgressors."

Explain that this verse is a clear reminder that Allah, the Most Merciful, does not approve of transgressions, especially when it comes to matters related to the sanctity of one's home.

9.3 Seeking Justice Against Forceful Ejection

- Cite Quran, Surah Al-Nisa, 4:32: "And if you are made to suffer injustice, then defend yourselves, but only against the one who has wronged you. And seek the help of Allah; surely, Allah is ever-observant of what you do."

Explain that when facing forceful ejection or any form of injustice, the Quran teaches us to seek refuge in Allah and to stand up for our rights within the boundaries of justice. We should never resort to violence or oppression in retaliation, but instead, trust in Allah's justice and seek His guidance in our actions.

Quran, Surah An-Nisa, 4:75: "And why should you not fight in the cause of Allah and of those who, being weak, are ill-treated (and oppressed)? Men, women, and children, whose cry is: 'Our Lord! Rescue us from this town, whose people are oppressors; and raise for us from You, one who will protect; and raise for us from You, one who will help!'"

Explain that in this verse, Allah emphasizes the importance of defending those who are weak and oppressed, particularly those who are being forcefully ejected from their homes. It is our duty as Muslims to stand up against injustice and advocate for the rights and safety of those in need.

Ending with a Summary

- Recap the key points discussed
- Remind the faithful that our homes are sacred spaces, gifts from Allah where we find comfort and security.
- Explain that Islam strictly prohibits forceful ejection from one's home, emphasizing the importance of resolving conflicts with kindness and understanding.

Sermon 10: Deprivation of Liberty



Summary of the Law

A person who deprives another of his or her liberty (except by a court order) will be sent to prison for up to 2 years or pay a fine of up to N200,000 or both

The Sermon Guide

Introduction

Welcome the brothers and sisters in Islam, and inform them of the need to discuss a topic of great importance: the deprivation of liberty. Remind them that in our modern world, it is crucial to understand what the Quran says about this matter. Invite them as you explore Quranic verses that shed light on the concept of deprivation of liberty and how they can derive valuable lessons from them.

Sub-themes

10.1 The Right to Freedom of Religion

- Cite Quranic Verse 2:256: "There shall be no compulsion in [acceptance of] the religion. The right course has become clear from the wrong. So whoever disbelieves in false deities and believes in Allah has certainly grasped the most trustworthy handhold with no break in it..."

Explain that this verse highlights the fundamental principle of Islam: the freedom to choose one's faith. Deprivation of liberty in matters of religion goes against the core teachings of Islam.

- Cite Surah Al-Kafirun (109:1-6): "Say, 'O disbelievers, I do not worship what you worship. Nor are you worshippers of what I worship. Nor will I be a worshipper of what you worship. Nor will you be worshippers of what I worship. For you is your religion, and for me is my religion.'"

Explain that in these verses, it is made clear that everyone is entitled to their own religious beliefs, and there should be no coercion in matters of faith.

- Reference Surah Al-Isra (17:84): "Say, 'Each works according to his manner, but your Lord is most knowing of who is best guided in way.'"

Explain that this verse highlights that individuals may follow different paths in matters of faith, and the ultimate judgment lies with God.

- Cite Surah Al-Ankabut (29:46): "And do not argue with the People of the Scripture except in a way that is best, except for those who commit injustice among them, and say, 'We believe in that which has been revealed to us and revealed to you. And our God and your God is one, and we are

Muslims [in submission] to Him."

Explain that this verse encourages respectful dialogue and interaction with people of different faiths and acknowledges the common belief in one God.

10.2 Liberty as a Divine Right:

- Cite Surah Al-Insan (76:3): "Indeed, We guided him to the way, be he grateful or be he ungrateful."

This verse emphasizes that guidance has been offered to humanity, and individuals are free to choose whether to be grateful for it or not.

- Reference Surah Al-Kahf (18:29): "And say, 'The truth is from your Lord, so whoever wills - let him believe; and whoever wills - let him disbelieve.'"

This verse highlights the idea that belief and disbelief are choices left to individual will.

- Cite Surah Al-Furqan (25:2): "And We did not send before you any messenger except that We revealed to him that, 'There is no deity except Me, so worship Me.'"

This verse underscores the freedom of belief and worship, as messengers were sent to convey the message, but people had the choice to accept or reject it.

- Cite Surah Al-Isra (17:84): "Say, 'Each works according to his manner, but your Lord is most knowing of who is best guided in way.'"

Emphasize that this verse acknowledges that people have different beliefs and ways of life, but the ultimate guidance comes from God.

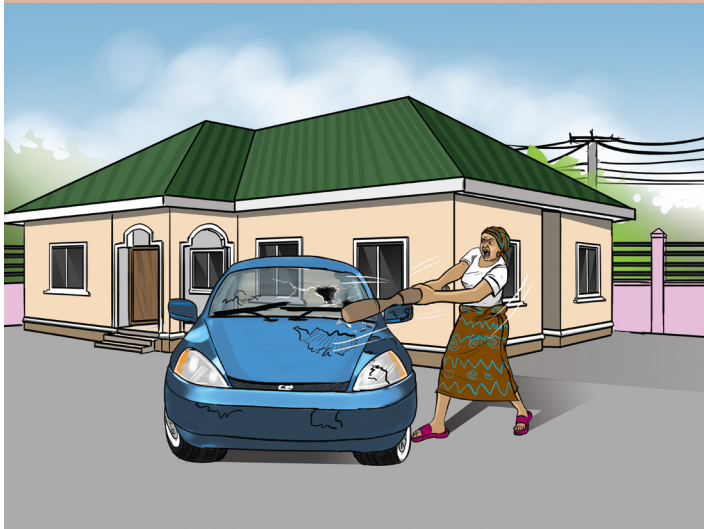
- Cite Surah Al-Qasas (28:56): "Indeed, [O Muhammad], you do not guide whom you like, but Allah guides whom He wills. And He is most knowing of the [rightly] guided."

Explain that this verse reminds us that guidance ultimately comes from Allah, and it is His prerogative to guide whomever He wills

Ending with a Summary

- Recap the key points of the sermon
- Remind the faithful that in Islam, the concept of deprivation of liberty is guided by principles of justice, mercy, and human dignity.
- Emphasize that as Muslims, we are called to uphold these principles and ensure that any restrictions on liberty are in line with Islamic values.
- Call on the Muslim brothers and Sisters to strive to be a community that respects the rights and freedoms of all individuals, as instructed by the Quran and the teachings of our beloved Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him)

Sermon 11: Damage to Property with Intent to Cause Distress



Summary of the Law

A person that destroys or damages the property of another person with the intention to cause disturbance or annoyance to the victim will be sent to prison for up to 2 years or pay a fine of up to N200,000 or both

The Sermon Guide

Introduction

- Begin with praise for Allah, the Most Merciful and Compassionate.
- Emphasize the importance of fostering a harmonious and respectful community.

Introduce the topic: "Damage to Property with Intent to Cause Distress"

Sub-themes

11.1 Understanding Islamic Ethics:

- Remind the congregation of the foundational Islamic principles: peace, compassion, and respect for one another.
- Stress the significance of property in Islam, as it is considered a trust from Allah.
- Quote from the Quran: "And do not waste [resources] extravagantly. Indeed, He does not like those who waste [resources]" (Quran 6:141).

11.2 The Prohibition of Damaging Property with Intent:

- Clarify the concept of "intent" and its significance in Islamic ethics.
 - Explain that causing distress to others intentionally is contrary to the teachings of Islam.
- Share a Hadith: "Abdullāh ibn 'Amr and Jābir ibn 'Abdullāh (may Allah be pleased with both of them) reported that the Prophet (may Allah's peace and blessings be upon him) said: "The true Muslim is the one from whose tongue and hand the Muslims are safe, and the Muhājir (emigrant) is the one

who abandons what Allah has forbidden." Abu Mūsa (may Allah be pleased with him) reported that he said: "O Messenger of Allah, who is the best among Muslims?" He said: "The one from whose tongue and hand the Muslims are safe."

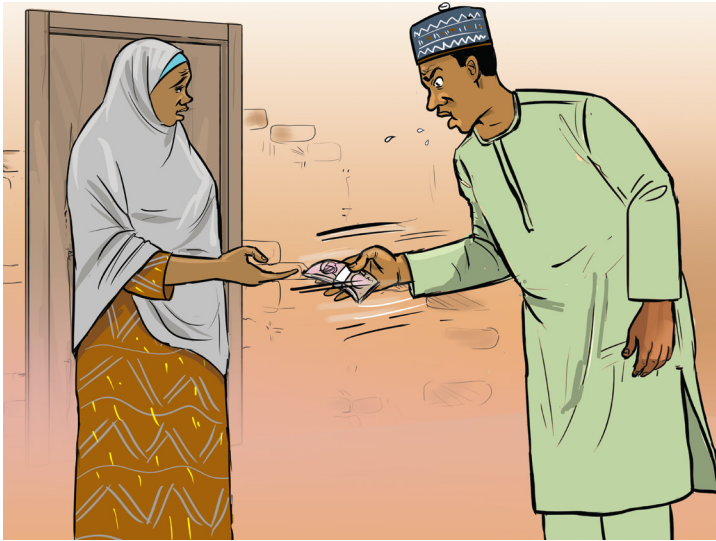
Cite the Hadith Abu Bakrah (May Allah be pleased with him):

“Delivering the sermon during the Farewell Pilgrimage on the day of Sacrifice at Mina, the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) said, "Verily your blood, your property, and your honour are as sacred and inviolable as the sanctity of this day of yours, in this month of yours and in this town of yours. Verily! I have conveyed this message to you."

Ending with a Summary

- Summarize the key points discussed in the sermon.
- Encourage the congregation to reflect on their actions and their impact on the community.
- Conclude with a prayer for unity, peace, and respect within the Muslim community and for all humanity.

Sermon 12: Forced Financial Dependence or Economic Abuse



Summary of the Law

A person that caused forced financial dependence or economic abuse of another (by denial of inheritance or succession rights, unreasonable deprivation of economic or financial resources that a person is entitled to such as household necessities, payment of rent in respect of a shared residence or destruction of other property etc.) will be sent to prison for up to 2 years or pay a fine of up to N200,000 or both.

The Sermon Guide

Introduction

Begin with praise and gratitude to Allah (SWT). Acknowledge the importance of addressing economic inequality and violence in the light of Islamic teachings. Emphasize the role of Muslims in promoting justice and equity in society.

Sub-themes

12.1 Position on Economic Justice

- Quote Quranic verse Al-Baqarah (2:188): "And do not consume one another's wealth unjustly or send it [in bribery] to the rulers in order [that they might aid] [in unlawful]"

Explain how this verse warns against economic oppression and corruption.

- Quote Quranic verse Al-Hashr (59:7): "And what Allah restored [of property] to His Messenger from them - you did not spur for it [in an expedition] any horses or camels, but Allah gives His messengers authority over whom He wills, and Allah is over all things competent."

Explain that this verse highlights the equitable distribution of wealth during the time of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) as a model for economic justice.

- Quranic Verse (Quran, 83:1-4): "Woe to those who give less [than due], who, when they take a measure from people, take in full but if they give by measure or by weight to them, they cause loss. Do they not think that they will be resurrected?"

Explain that is verse presents the importance of fair trade and business ethics in Islam. Emphasize the consequences of dishonesty in financial transactions and the accountability in the Hereafter.

Quote Quran 11:85: "And, O my people, give full measure and weight in justice and do not deprive the people of their due and do not commit abuse on the earth, spreading corruption." (Surah Hud, 11:85)

Discuss the negative consequences of economic inequality/ injustice in society.

Cite Quranic Verse (Quran, 2:188): "And do not consume one another's wealth unjustly or send it [in bribery] to the rulers in order [that they might aid] you [to] [get] [the] [means] [of] a [portion] of [the wealth] [of] the people in sin, while you know [it is unlawful]."

Explain that wealth is a trust (amanah) from Allah, and misusing or unjustly acquiring it is a grave sin. Encourage ethical conduct in financial matters.

Quranic Verse (Quran, 2:110): "And establish prayer and give zakah, and whatever good you put forward for yourselves - you will find it with Allah. Indeed, Allah of what you do, is Seeing."

Quranic Verse (Quran, 4:8): "And when the relative (orphans) and the needy (poor) are present at the time of division, give them something out of it, and speak to them words of kindness and justice."

Discuss the social consequences of economic inequality, such as the oppression of the vulnerable.

Ending with a Summary

Summarize the key points discussed in the sermon

Encourage the congregation to reflect on their actions and their impact on the community

Sermon 13: Forced or Unjustified Isolation or Separation from Family and Friends.



Summary of the Law

A person that by force and without good reason, isolates or separates another from family and friends (by preventing him or her from leaving the home or having contact with the family and friends or with the outside community) will be sent to prison for up to 6 months or pay a fine of up to N50, 000 or both

The Sermon Guide

Introduction

- Begin with a warm greeting and an introduction to the topic.
- Highlight the importance of unity, compassion, and maintaining strong family and friend relationships in Islam

Sub-themes

13.1 The Sanctity of Family Cohesion

- Emphasize the Quranic view on the importance of family and friendship bonds.
- Share Quranic verses that highlight the significance of maintaining these relationships:
- Quote Quran 30:21 - "And among His Signs is that He created for you mates from among yourselves, that ye may dwell in tranquility with them, and He has put love and mercy between your (hearts): verily in that are Signs for those who reflect."
- Cite Quran 4:36 - "And worship Allah and associate nothing with Him, and to parents do good, and to relatives, orphans, the needy, the near neighbor, the neighbor farther away, the companion at your side, the traveler, and those whom your right hands possess. Indeed, Allah does not like those who are self-deluding and boastful."

13.2 Challenging Forced Isolation:

- Cite Surah Ar-Rum (Chapter 30), Verse 21: "And of His signs is that He created for you from yourselves mates that you may find tranquillity in them; and He placed between you affection and mercy. Indeed in that are signs for a people who give thought."
Explain that this verse speaks to the idea that marriage is divinely made as a source of comfort,

affection, and mercy between spouses and should be respected.

- Quote Surah Al-Baqarah (Chapter 2), Verse 187: "They are clothing for you and you are clothing for them."

Discuss this verse as the concept of spouses being like garments for each other, signifying protection, comfort, and therefore forceful isolation of any of the partners is leaves the other open and vulnerable. .

- Reference Surah Al-Ahqaf (Chapter 46), Verse 15: "And We have enjoined upon man [care] for his parents. His mother carried him, [increasing her] in weakness upon weakness, and his weaning is in two years. Be grateful to Me and to your parents; to Me is the [final] destination."

Explain that his verse emphasizes the design of God, in which every member of the family has a role to ensure fullness of life, highlighting the importance of unbroken family relationships

13.3 The Quranic Emphasis on Family and Community:

Cite these verses:

Quran 13:25 - "And those who break the covenant of Allah after its confirmation and cut asunder that which Allah ordered to be joined, and make mischief in the land; these it is that are the losers."

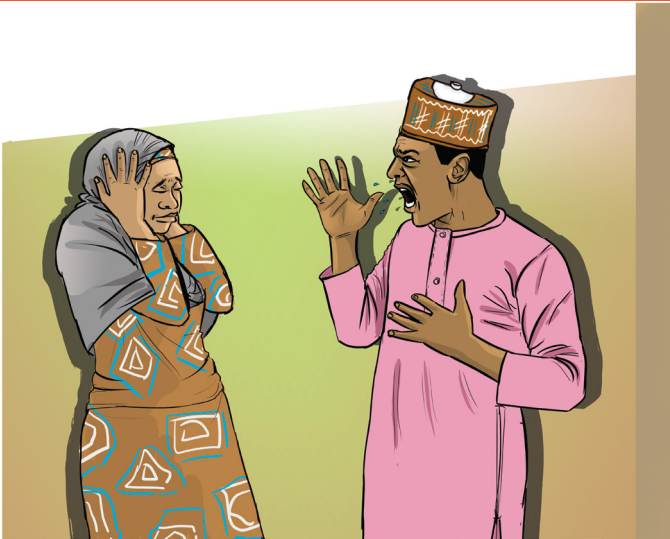
Quran 49:13 - "O mankind! We created you from a single (pair) of a male and a female, and made you into nations and tribes, that ye may know each other (not that ye may despise each other)."

Ending with a Summary

- Summarize the key points discussed in the sermon.
- Reiterate the importance of unity, compassion, and following Quranic guidance.

End with a prayer for unity and strong relationships among the congregation

Sermon 14: Emotional, Verbal and Psychological Abuse



Summary of the Law

A person that puts another to emotional, verbal, or psychological abuse (by repeated insults, ridicule or name-calling, repeated threats to cause emotional pain, a repeated exhibition of obsessive possessiveness, etc.) will be sent to prison for up to 1 year or pay a fine of up to N100,000 or both

The Sermon Guide

Introduction

Begin with the Muslim greeting “Assalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuhu” (Peace and blessings be upon you all). Welcome the brethren and call on them to reflect upon a crucial topic: emotional violence. Remind them that In Islam, we are taught to uphold the principles of kindness, compassion, and empathy in our interactions with others. Welcome them into an exploration of Quranic verses that emphasize the rejection of emotional violence and highlight the importance of nurturing positive emotions

Sub-themes

14.1 Avoiding Hurtful Speech

- Cite Quranic Verse: "...And speak to people kindly." (Surah Al-Baqarah, 2:83)

Remind the believers that the Quran reminds us to choose our words carefully and to speak to others with gentleness and respect.

- Cite Quranic Verse: "And those who restrain anger and pardon the people – and Allah loves the doers of good." (Surah Al-Imran, 3:134)

Explain that emotional violence often arises from unchecked anger. Allah encourages us to control our anger and forgive others, as it is a sign of goodness.

- Quote Quranic Verse: "O you who have believed, avoid much [negative] assumption. Indeed, some assumption is sin. And do not spy or backbite each other. Would one of you like to eat the flesh of his brother when dead? You would detest it." (Surah Al-Hujurat, 49:12)

Explain that emotional violence often involves negative assumptions, gossip, and backbiting, which are condemned in Islam. This verse vividly illustrates the gravity of such actions.

- Cite Surah Al-Hujurat (49:11): "O you who have believed, let not a people ridicule [another]

people; perhaps they may be better than them; nor let women ridicule [other] women; perhaps they may be better than them. And do not insult one another and do not call each other by [offensive] nicknames."

Explain that this verse advises against ridiculing, insulting, or using offensive nicknames to emotionally harm others

- Quote Surah Al-Baqarah (2:263): "Kind words and forgiveness are better than charity followed by injury. And Allah is Free of need and Forbearing.

Cite the Hadith : Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: "The strong is not the one who overcomes the people by his strength, but the strong is the one who controls himself while in anger." (Sahih al-Bukhari)

14.2 Quranic Warning Again Hurting Persons

- Cite Surah Al-Ahzab (33:58): "And those who harm believing men and believing women for [something] other than what they have earned have certainly born upon themselves a slander and manifest sin."

Explain that this verse highlights the importance of avoiding negative assumptions, spying, and backbiting, as these actions can cause emotional harm to others.

Ending with a Summary

- Summarize the key points from the sermon.
- Encourage the congregation to reflect on their own relationships with their neighbours.
- Invite them to pray for unity, strength, and resilience against hurtful words.

Sermon 15: Abandonment of Family Without Sustenance



Summary of the Law

A person who abandons his wife, children, or other dependents without means of livelihood will be sent to prison for up to 3 years or pay a fine of up to N300,000 or both.

The Sermon Guide

Introduction

- Begin with the praise of Allah and sending blessings upon the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).
- Emphasize the importance of family in Islam and the role of a provider.
- Introduce the topic of the sermon: the obligation to provide for one's family and the Quranic verse that addresses this issue.

Sub-themes

15.1 Quranic Mandate on Family Responsibility

- Quote Quranic verse 2:233 (Surah Al-Baqarah): "Mothers may breastfeed their children two complete years for whoever wishes to complete the nursing [period]. Upon the father is the mothers' provision and their clothing according to what is acceptable. No person is charged with more than his capacity. No mother should be harmed through her child, and no father through his child. And upon the [father's] heir is [a duty] like that [of the father]. And if they both desire weaning through mutual consent from both of them and consultation, there is no blame upon either of them. And if you wish to have your children nursed by a substitute, there is no blame upon you as long as you give payment according to what is acceptable. And fear Allah and know that Allah is Seeing of what you do."

Explain that it addresses the responsibilities of both parents in terms of providing for the family. Stress that no one should be burdened beyond their means.

- Cite Surah Al-Baqarah (Chapter 2), Verse 233: "And due to the wives is similar to what is expected of them, according to what is reasonable. But the men have a degree over them [in responsibility and authority]. And Allah is Exalted in Might and Wise."

Explain that this verse acknowledges the responsibility of husbands to provide for their wives and families.

- Cite Surah Al-Baqarah (Chapter 2), Verse 236: "There is no blame upon you if you divorce women you have not touched nor specified for them an obligation. But give them [a gift of] compensation - the wealthy according to his capability and the poor according to his capability - a provision according to what is acceptable, a duty upon the doers of good."

Explain that in the context of divorce, this verse highlights the importance of providing financial compensation to divorced women, taking into account the husband's financial capability.

- Quote Surah Al-Isra (Chapter 17), Verse 26: "And give the relative his right, and [also] the poor and the traveler, and do not spend wastefully."

Explain that this verse emphasizes the importance of giving relatives their due rights, which includes providing for their sustenance when necessary.

- Cite Surah Al-Luqman (Chapter 31), Verse 14: "And We have enjoined upon man [care] for his parents. His mother carried him, [increasing her] in weakness upon weakness, and his weaning is in two years. Be grateful to Me and to your parents; to Me is the [final] destination."

Explain that while this verse primarily addresses the responsibility of children to care for their parents, it also indirectly highlights the responsibility of parents to provide for their children during their early years.

15.2 Consequences of Abandoning Family

- Cite Surah Al-Baqarah (Chapter 2), Verse 180: "It is not righteousness that you turn your faces towards the East or the West, but righteousness is in one who believes in Allah, the Last Day, the Angels, the Book, and the Prophets, and gives his wealth, in spite of love for it, to relatives, orphans, the needy, the traveler, those who ask [for help], and for freeing slaves."

Explain that this verse highlights the importance of using one's wealth and resources to support relatives and those in need.

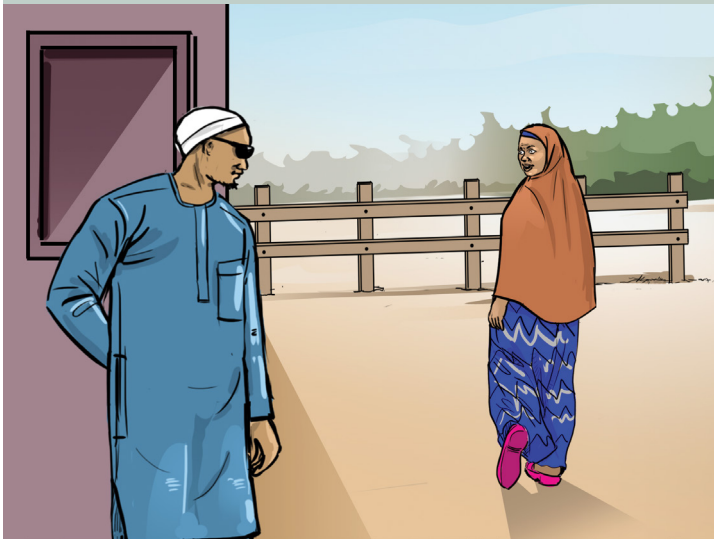
- Quote Surah Al-Isra (17:26-27): "And give the relative his right, and [also] the poor and the traveler, and do not spend wastefully. Indeed, the wasteful are brothers of the devils, and ever has Satan been to his Lord ungrateful."

Explain that These verses encourage fulfilling the rights of relatives, including family members, and warn against wastefulness, as it is considered akin to the behaviour of devils.

Ending with a Summary

- Summarize the key points of the sermon.
- Remind the congregation of their responsibilities toward their families as an essential part of their faith.
- Encourage family members to support and communicate with each other.
- Conclude with a dua asking Allah for guidance and strength to fulfil our responsibilities toward our families.

Sermon 16: Stalking



Summary of the Law

A person that stalks another (by repeatedly watching or loitering outside or near residence, place of work, place of business etc. or by following, pursuing or accosting another in a manner that causes fear, anxiety or discomfort) will be sent to prison for up to 2 years or pay a fine of up to N200,000 or both

The Sermon Guide

Introduction

Greet the brothers and sisters in Islam, and inform them that the sermon is dedicated to an important topic that affects the lives of many individuals in our society - stalking. Explain that stalking is a harmful and invasive behavior that violates the rights and privacy of others. Remind them that as Muslims, it is their duty to understand the gravity of this issue and to seek guidance from the Quran and Hadith to address it.

Sub-themes

16.1 Understanding Stalking

- Explain that stalking is the act of persistently following, harassing, or monitoring someone without their consent, causing them fear, anxiety, and distress. This behavior is not only harmful but also against the principles of Islam

16.2 The Islamic Perspective

- Cite Surah Al-Hujurat (49:12), Allah says, "O you who have believed, avoid much [negative] assumption. Indeed, some assumption is sin. And do not spy or backbite each other. Would one of you like to eat the flesh of his brother when dead? You would detest it. And fear Allah; indeed, Allah is Accepting of repentance and Merciful."

Emphasize that Allah has made clear the importance of respecting the privacy of others in the Quran.

- Quote Hadith (Sunan Abu Dawood): "Beware! There is a piece of flesh in the body; if it becomes good (reformed), the whole body becomes good; but if it becomes corrupt, the whole body becomes corrupt. That piece of flesh is the heart."

Explain that this Hadith emphasizes the importance of not spying or eavesdropping on others, which are actions often associated with stalking.

Ending with a Summary

- Reiterate the Prohibition of Stalking
- Emphasize that Islam unequivocally prohibits stalking, as it goes against the principles of respect, consent, and privacy.

Encourage the congregation to report any stalking incidents they witness or experience, as it is essential to protect the well-being of the community

Sermon 17: Intimidation of a Person

Summary of the Law

A person who intimidates another (by using a threat or conveying a threat that puts the victim in fear, anxiety, or discomfort) will be sent to prison for up to 1 year or pay a fine of up to N100,000 or both



The Sermon Guide

Introduction

Begin with the Islamic greeting of peace and invite the congregation to the day's sermon focusing on a critical issue that affects the lives of many individuals – intimidation. Explain that intimidation can take various forms and can have a detrimental impact on a person's mental, emotional, and even physical well-being. Remind the faithful that as Muslims, it is essential for them to understand what the Quran teaches about this matter and how they can apply its guidance in their lives

Sub-themes

17.1 Defining Intimidation

Explain that intimidation refers to the act of instilling fear or using threats, coercion, or force to manipulate or control someone. It can manifest in different ways, such as bullying, harassment, or even verbal abuse. State that the Quran condemns any action that causes harm to others, including intimidation.

17.2 Islamic Perspectives on Intimidation:

- Cite Surah Al-Baqarah (2:286): "Allah does not burden a soul beyond that it can bear..."

Explain that this verse reminds us that intimidation goes against the principle of not burdening someone beyond their capacity. Allah does not condone any act that causes undue stress or fear to another individual.

- Cite Surah Al-Baqarah (2:195): "And take provisions, but indeed, the best provision is Taqwa. So fear Me, O you of understanding!"

Explain that this verse emphasizes that true strength lies in Taqwa, or God-consciousness, not in intimidating or dominating others. We should fear Allah and not resort to intimidating tactics.

- Cite Surah Al-Hujurat (49:11): "O you who have believed, let not a people ridicule [another] people; perhaps they may be better than them..."

Explain that intimidation often involves ridicule and belittling. This verse reminds us not to engage in such behavior and highlights the importance of respecting others, regardless of their status or background.

- Sahih Muslim, Book 32, Hadith 6250: The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said, "None of you truly believes until he wishes for his brother what he wishes for himself."

Teach that this Hadith highlights the concept of empathy and kindness towards others, which includes not intimidating or causing harm to them

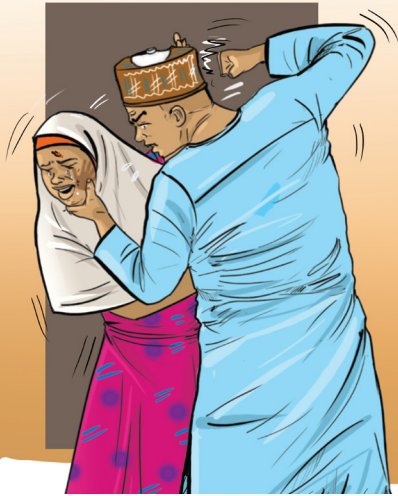
- Cite Sahih al-Bukhari, Book 73, Hadith 159: The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said, "A Muslim is the one who avoids harming Muslims with his tongue and hands."

Explain that this Hadith emphasizes the importance of refraining from causing harm, including through intimidation or verbal abuse

Ending with a Summary

- Recap the key points of the sermon
- Remind the people that intimidation is contrary to the principles of justice, compassion, and respect taught by Islam.
- Remind them that as Muslims, it is their duty to reject intimidation and promote an environment where all individuals can live with dignity and peace.

Sermon 18: Spousal Battery



Summary of the Law

A husband that beats his wife or wife that beats her husband will be sent to prison for up to 3 years or pay a fine of up to N300, 000 or both

The Sermon Guide

Start with greeting the faithful - Assalamu Alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh (Peace be upon you and may the mercy of Allah be upon you). Highlight the need to break the silence on a critical issue that plagues society— spousal battery. Remind the faithful that as Muslims, it is their responsibility to guide the communities towards a path of justice, compassion, and respect. Invite them to an exploration of the Quranic verses that emphasize the sanctity of human life, the importance of equitable relationships, and the condemnation of violence in any form.

Sub-themes

18.1 Understanding Spousal Battery in Light of God's Word

- Reference this verse: "And whoever kills a believer intentionally, his recompense is Hell to abide therein, and the wrath and the curse of Allah are upon him, and a great punishment is prepared for him." (Quran 4:93) b. "And do not kill yourselves [or one another]. Indeed, Allah is to you ever Merciful." (Quran 4:29)
- Explain that these verses clearly highlight the sanctity of human life and the severe consequences of intentionally causing harm or taking someone's life. Emphasize that spousal battery violates the fundamental principle of valuing and preserving life, and it is completely contradictory to the teachings of Islam

18.2 Mutual Respect and Kindness

- Reference this verse: "And of His signs is that He created for you from yourselves mates that you may find tranquility in them, and He placed between you affection and mercy. Indeed, in that are signs for a people who give thought." (Quran 30:21) b
- Explain that the verse emphasizes the importance of mutual respect, love, and mercy in marital

and interpersonal relationships. They remind us that men and women are equal partners and deserve to be treated with kindness, compassion, and dignity.

- Remind the congregants that spousal battery is a violation of these principles and undermines the harmony and tranquility that should exist within families and communities.

18.3 Prohibition of Oppression and Injustice:

- (Quran 30:21) b. "O you who have believed, be persistently standing firm for Allah, witnesses in justice, and do not let the hatred of a people prevent you from being just. Be just; that is nearer to righteousness. And fear Allah; indeed, Allah is Acquainted with what you do." (Quran 5:8)
- Explain that these verses emphasize the importance of justice and fairness in all aspects of life.
- Explain that spousal battery is a form of oppression and injustice that must be condemned and eradicated from the communities.
- Reiterate that Islam calls upon Muslims to stand firm for justice and not to let biases or prejudices hinder their pursuit of truth and fairness.

18.4 The Sanctity and Honor of Women:

Reference this verse: "O mankind, fear your Lord, who created you from one soul and created from it its mate and dispersed from both of them many men and women. And fear Allah, through whom you ask one another, and the wombs. Indeed, Allah is ever, over you, an Observer." (Quran 4:1)

- Explain that this verse highlights the equal creation of men and women from a single soul. Emphasizes that both genders possess inherent dignity and are to be respected and valued.

18.5 Commandments of Kindness and Respect

A relevant verse: "And live with them [your wives] in kindness. For if you dislike them - perhaps you dislike a thing and Allah makes therein much good." (Quran 4:19)

- Explain that the verse emphasizes the importance of kind, compassionate, and respectful treatment of women.
- Remind the believers that Muslims are instructed to nurture harmonious relationships characterized by love, tranquillity, and mercy. Violence against women contradicts these teachings and goes against the principles of Islam.

Ending with a Summary

Recap the key talking points and remind the congregants that addressing spousal battery requires a collective effort from all members of the faith community. As Muslims, they should foster a culture that respects the sanctity of human life, promotes equality, and stands against all forms of violence and oppression. Close with a prayer that Allah may guide all in the endeavors to create a society free from GBV and bless the faithful with His mercy and compassion.

Sermon 19: Substance Attack



Summary of the Law

A person that uses any chemical, biological or any other harmful liquid on another will be sent to prison for life and without option of fine

The Sermon Guide

Introduction

Begin by praising Allah, the Most Merciful, and the Most Compassionate.

- Acknowledge the importance of addressing social issues and injustices within our community.
- Introduce the topic of acid attacks, highlighting their severity and the need for Islamic guidance to combat them.

Sub-themes

19.1 Understanding Acid Attacks

- Explain what substance attacks are and provide some statistics or examples to illustrate the gravity of the issue.
- Emphasize the physical and psychological harm inflicted on victims.
- Stress the importance of empathy and compassion toward victims and survivors.

19.2 Islamic Teachings Against Harm

Quote Quran 4:29: "And do not kill the soul which Allah has forbidden, except by right..."

Explain the significance of these verses in promoting peace, justice, and the protection of human life.

Hadith:

- Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: "None of you has faith until he loves for his brother what he loves for himself." (Sahih al-Bukhari)
- Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: "Whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day should not harm his neighbor, and whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day should show hospitality to his guest, and whoever believes in Allah and the Last Day should speak good or remain silent." (Sahih Muslim)

- Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: "Do not cause harm or return harm." (Ibn Majah)

Explain that these verses from the Quran and Hadith emphasize the importance of avoiding harm to others, promoting justice, and treating people with kindness and compassion. Islam encourages believers to be considerate of their neighbors, guests, and fellow human beings and to avoid causing harm or transgressing against them.

Ending with a Summary

- Summarize the main points of the sermon.
- Call upon the congregation to stand against substance attacks, promote justice, and protect human dignity.
- Encourage individuals to actively work towards preventing such crimes and supporting survivors.
- End with a heartfelt prayer for the victims and a supplication for guidance and unity within the community.

Sermon 20: Administering a Substance with Intent



Summary of the Law

A person that intentionally gives to another or makes someone give to another anything (e.g. as a drink) that will make the person given lose his sense so as to overpower him or her and commit sexual activity with him or her, the offender will be sent to prison for a minimum of 10 years without option of fine

The Sermon Guide

Introduction

Start with “Assalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh” (Peace and blessings be upon you). Invite the congregation for a reflect upon a serious matter that is addressed in the Quran – the prohibition of administering a substance with harmful intent. State that this act is not only morally wrong but also against the teachings of Islam

Sub-themes

20.1 The Sanctity of Life:

- Cite this Hadith: "Allah has made the sanctity of a believer's blood, wealth, and honor like that of the sanctity of this sacred day of yours, in this sacred month of yours, in this sacred city of yours." (Sahih Bukhari)

Explain that administering a substance with harmful intent is an egregious violation of this sanctity. Such actions not only endanger lives but also breach the trust and ethics that Islam promotes.

- Reference this Quranic Verse: "Do not kill the soul which Allah has made sacred, except by right of justice." (Quran, Surah Al-Isra, 17:33)

Explain that administering harmful substances with malicious intent is a grave sin, and Allah warns us of the consequences of wrongdoing. Such actions can lead to severe harm or even loss of life.

20.2 Penalties for Wicked Actions Like administering Harmful Substances

- Reference Quran, Surah Az-Zalzalah, 99:7-8): "And whoever does an atom's weight of evil will see it."

Explain that if anyone has erred in this matter or any other, it is important to remember that Allah will pay everyone according to his actions.

- Quote Surah Al-Baqarah (2:195)"And do not throw [yourselves] with your [own] hands into destruction [by refraining]. And do good; indeed, Allah loves the doers of good."

Ending with a Summary

Recap the key sermon points

- Emphasize that administering a substance with harmful intent is a grave sin that contradicts the teachings of Islam.
- Call on the believers to always strive to uphold the sanctity of human life, avoid causing harm intentionally, and seek forgiveness for any wrongdoing.

May Allah's peace and blessings be upon us all. Ameen.

Sermon 21: Indecent Exposure



Summary of the Law

A person that intentionally exposes his or her private parts or a substantial part of the private parts (buttocks, breasts etc. so as to make another see it and be attracted to commit an offence under this law) will be sent to prison for a minimum period of 3 years or pay a fine of up to N300, 000 or both

The Sermon Guide

Introduction - Honoring God's Temple: A Sermon Guide on Indecent Exposure

- Begin with a warm greeting and praise for Allah.
- Emphasize the importance of modesty and decency in Islam.
- Mention the relevance of this topic in today's society

Sub-themes

21.1 Understanding Modesty (Haya) in Islam

- Define "haya" (modesty) and its significance in Islam.
- Discuss how modesty is not just about clothing but also behavior and character.
- Highlight the idea that modesty is a form of worship and obedience to Allah.
- Reference QuranVerse 7:26 - "O children of Adam, We have bestowed upon you clothing to conceal your private parts and as adornment. But the clothing of righteousness - that is best. That is from the signs of Allah that perhaps they will remember."

21.2 The Islamic Recommendation on Dressing

- Cite Quran 24:31 - "And tell the believing women to reduce [some] of their vision and guard their private parts and not expose their adornment except that which [necessarily] appears thereof and to wrap [a portion of] their headcovers over their chests and not expose their adornment except to their husbands, their fathers, their husbands' fathers, their sons, their husbands' sons, their brothers, their brothers' sons, their sisters' sons, their women, that which their right hands possess, or those male attendants having no physical desire, or children who are not yet aware of the private aspects of women. And let them not stamp their feet to make known what they conceal of their adornment. And turn to Allah in repentance, all of you, O believers, that you might succeed."
- Reference Surah Al-Ahzab (33:59) "O Prophet, tell your wives and your daughters and the

women of the believers to bring down over themselves [part] of their outer garments. That is more suitable that they will be known and not be abused."

- Reference Surah An-Nur (24:30-31) "Tell the believing men to lower their gaze and be modest. That is purer for them. Indeed, Allah is Acquainted with what they do. And tell the believing women to lower their gaze and be modest

Explain the following dress codes for Muslims:

For Men:

- Covering the body from the navel to the knee.
- Avoiding tight or transparent clothing.
- Lowering the gaze and maintaining modest behavior.

For Women:

- Wearing modest clothing that covers the body, except for the face and hands.
- Avoiding revealing and tight clothing.
- Lowering the gaze and maintaining modest behavior.

The Importance of Dressing Modestly

- Explain the importance of dressing modestly for both men and women.
- Emphasize that modest clothing reflects one's faith and submission to Allah.
- Mention that it is an act of protecting one's dignity and preventing harm to society.
- Reference Quran 33:59 - "O Prophet, tell your wives and your daughters and the women of the believers to bring down over themselves [part] of their outer garments. That is more suitable that they will be known and not be abused. And ever is Allah Forgiving and Merciful."

21.3 Addressing Indecent Exposure

- Discuss the various forms of indecent exposure that exist today.
- Emphasize that Islam calls for covering the awrah (private parts) and avoiding revealing clothing.
- Remind the congregation of the consequences of indecent exposure in this life and the hereafter.
- Reference Quran 24:30 - "Say to the believing men that they should lower their gaze and guard their modesty; that will make for greater purity for them. And Allah is well acquainted with all that they do."

Ending with a Summary

- Summarize the key points discussed in the sermon.
- Reiterate the significance of modesty as a means of pleasing Allah and safeguarding one's faith.
- Encourage the congregation to implement the teachings of Islam regarding modesty in their lives.
- End with a dua (supplication) asking Allah for guidance and strength in maintaining modesty and protecting oneself from indecent exposure

Sermon 22: Political Violence



Summary of the Law

A person that commits political violence (by acts of thuggery, use of force to disrupt meetings or use of dangerous weapons) will be sent to prison for a minimum of 4 years or pay a fine of up to N400,000 or both

The Sermon Guide

- Begin with a warm greeting and praise to Allah.
- Emphasize the importance of maintaining peace and unity within the Muslim community.
- Explain the purpose of the sermon: to address the issue of political violence and provide guidance from the Quran on rejecting it.

Sub-themes

22.1 The Quranic Call for Peace:

- Discuss the Quranic teachings that promote peace and non-violence.
- Reference Quran 25:63 "And the servants of the Most Merciful are those who walk upon the earth easily, and when the ignorant address them [harshly], they say [words of] peace."
- Emphasize the importance of resolving disputes through peaceful means and dialogue.

22.2 Islamic Stance on Civil Disobedience:

- Reference Surah Al-Hujurat (Chapter 49), Verse 9: "And if two factions among the believers should fight, then make settlement between the two. But if one of them oppresses the other, then fight against the one that oppresses until it returns to the ordinance of Allah. And if it returns, then make a settlement between them in justice and act justly. Indeed, Allah loves those who act justly."

Explain that this verse emphasizes the importance of reconciliation and justice in resolving conflicts among believers. It encourages Muslims to mediate and settle disputes peacefully. However, if one party persists in oppressing the other, then they are allowed to defend themselves until justice is restored.

- Quote Quran 4:59: "O you who have believed, obey Allah and obey the Messenger and those in authority among you. And if you disagree over anything, refer it to Allah and the Messenger if you believe in Allah and the Last Day. That is the best [way] and best in result."

Explain that this verse emphasizes obedience to those in authority among the believers. It encourages resolving disputes through peaceful means and referencing religious guidance (Allah and the Messenger, i.e., the Quran and the Prophet's teachings) rather than resorting to rebellion or political uprisings.

Closing with a Summary

- Summarize the key points of the sermon.
- Reiterate the importance of rejecting political violence and extremism

Encourage the congregation to be ambassadors of peace and to promote tolerance and understanding within their communities.

- Conclude with a dua (prayer) for peace and unity, asking Allah for guidance and strength to reject violence and promote peace.

Closing Dua:

- Offer a heartfelt dua for peace, unity, and guidance for all Muslims.
- Pray for an end to political violence and for a world filled with compassion and justice.
- End the sermon with a final reminder of the importance of living by Quranic principles and striving for a peaceful society.

Note: Muslim clerics should adapt this sermon guide to suit their specific context and audience, and they may choose to include additional Quranic verses and Hadiths as needed.

General Note on Delivering Sermons Using this Guide

Key Recommendations

- Always begin with a warm welcome and a brief acknowledgment of the congregation's presence and the importance of addressing critical issues in our society through the voice of faith.

- Establish the theme of the sermon: Understanding and addressing key legal issues surrounding violence against persons from a faith perspective.

Share relevant statistics: - Provide statistics on the prevalence of violence against persons locally, nationally, or globally. - Highlight the impact of violence on individuals, families, and communities.

- Discuss the responsibility of faith communities in addressing societal issues, including legal matters related to violence. - Emphasize the importance of creating a safe and compassionate space within the faith community.

Understanding the Legal Issues

- Study the key legal concepts so that you can provide a basic understanding of legal terms and discuss the importance of legal protections for victims.

- Study how faith and religious teachings intersect with legal principles related to human dignity, justice, and compassion.

Recognizing the Impact

- Share stories or testimonies of individuals who have been affected by violence, either as survivors or advocates. - Allow for a moment of reflection on the real-life consequences of violence.

- Discuss the emotional and spiritual toll violence takes on victims and perpetrators. - Encourage empathy and understanding within the faith community.

Faith-Based Responses

- Use relevant passages from religious texts that condemn violence and promote love, forgiveness, and reconciliation. Discuss the role of faith in inspiring individuals to work towards justice.

- Encourage the congregation to become actively involved in supporting victims and advocating for legal reforms. Highlight the importance of promoting a culture of reporting and accountability within the faith community.

- Discuss the importance of faith communities collaborating with legal authorities, such as law enforcement, legal aid organizations, and social services. Share examples of successful partnerships.

- Encourage the congregation to engage in advocacy efforts to improve legal responses to violence. Provide resources for contacting legislators, attending community meetings, or participating in awareness campaigns.

Conclusion

- Summarize the key points of the sermon, emphasizing the importance of faith-based responses to legal issues surrounding violence against persons.
- Offer a prayer for healing, justice, and the strength to make a positive impact.
- Invite the congregation to reflect on how they can contribute to creating a safer and more compassionate community.
- Express gratitude for their commitment to addressing these critical issues.

Closing Remarks

- Offer a final word of encouragement and hope, reminding the congregation of the power of faith, compassion, and collaboration in addressing legal issues related to violence.
- Invite congregants to connect with the faith community's resources and support networks.
- Dismiss the congregation with a blessing and a call to action.

Appreciation

Dear Respected Religious Leaders,

We want to express our heartfelt appreciation and gratitude for your unwavering commitment to the well-being of our faith communities and society at large. Your dedication to addressing the critical issue of violence against persons through the sermon guide we provided is a testament to your profound leadership and compassion.

Your willingness to engage with and use the sermon guide demonstrates your commitment to creating safe and nurturing spaces within our faith communities. By tackling the legal issues surrounding violence against persons from a faith perspective, you are not only providing spiritual guidance but also promoting justice, healing, and positive change.

Through your sermons, you are shedding light on the pressing challenges that many individuals face and inspiring hope for a more compassionate and just world. Your efforts in conveying the importance of faith-based responses, community engagement, and collaboration with legal authorities are making a meaningful impact on the lives of those affected by violence.

As you deliver these sermons, we encourage you to continue fostering open dialogue, empathy, and support within your congregations. Your roles as religious leaders extend beyond the pulpit, and your influence can help bring about lasting change in our communities.

Thank you for being beacons of hope, justice, and healing. Your dedication to addressing these vital legal issues is a powerful testament to the transformative potential of faith. May your sermons be a source of inspiration and guidance, and may they contribute to a more peaceful and just world for all.

With deep appreciation and blessings,
Ipas Nigeria Health Foundation



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